misuse of the domestic LPG cylinders. Are you taking any steps to counter that? Also, are you taking any steps to encourage LPG fuel usage? What are the criteria that you are following to open new outlets and to have these facilities available in other States, because there are many other States, which are not yet covered by this?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Actually, wherever dispensation units are necessary, on the request, oil sectors are definitely making arrangements to install new units. At the same time, there are various laws. Section 22 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 is there and there is also the Essential Commodities Act under which the Petroleum Ministry and the police inspector can prosecute any person who is using the kit clandestinely.

Corruption in SAI

*64. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI R.K. ANAND:†

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Auditors of Sports Authority of India have written to Government alleging corruption in SAI;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) M/s N.C. Mittal & Co., who have conducted statutory audit for Sports Authority of India (SAI) during 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003, have written a letter to the Government which contains allegations of corruption in SAI and mentions having pointed-out 20 big frauds in their above mentioned Audit Reports. However, the Audit Reports of these years by the aforesaid company do not mention any fraud. The auditors have brought out SAI's financial and accounting irregularities in their Audit Reports during this period. It is also stated that SAI and its Centres have not maintained proper books of accounts.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri R.K. Anand.

(c) Corrective action taken by SAI in this regard includes:

(i) compilation of all accounts on mercantile system (accrual basis) from 2004-2005.

(ii) steps towards proper maintenance of account books

(iii) reconciliation process for security/earnest money

(iv) uniform formatting for accounts in different Centres of SAI

(v) training of Accounts staff.

SAI has also been directed to take the assistance of a professional financial agency to streamline the financial operations.

SHRI R.K. ANAND: Part (b) of the reply mentions that there is a large-scale corruption in the Sports Authority of India. It also mentions that Auditors have bought out financial and accounting irregularities in their audit reports, but it does not mention the level or extent of corruption. It requires a very serious probe. Is it correct that the then Minister in the year December, 2002 and January, 2003 purchased carpets and mattresses from the funds of Sports Authority of India? Did they claim any expenditure for the taxi fare, which they say that such expenditure could not be allowed as expenditure of the society, as the Minister of the Government of India does not travel in a taxi?

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Sir, it is a fact that the audit reports for the years 2000-2001, 2001-02 and 2002-03 have indicated certain financial irregularities in the accounts of SAI. We have our preliminary investigations, and examination of reports have shown that there are these irregularities. But most of these irregularities are due to lack of proper accounts being maintained by SAI Headquarters and various regional centres, sub-centres and institutions of SAI. There is also a problem in maintaining GPF and Pension fund accounts correctly. Mostly these facts are due to irregular maintenance of accounts books which is a fact noted. The specific point raised by the hon. Member that the audit report has pointed out certain expenditure on use of transportation, renovation of offices and mobile phones. But these expenditures, as has been explained by SAI, were incurred in the capacity of the Minister and in the capacity of office bearer of SAI, which is a society.

SHRI R.K. ANAND: Is it also correct that when the audit was being done for these years in the corporate office of the SAI, the officials were not cooperating in handing over the proper accounts books to the auditors? So, they were not able to properly check the records of the SAI. I would like to have a proble in the matter.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: As I said, we are looking at all the complaints. As the question is asked, we have received the Audit Reports for these three years. In addition, the firm which did the audit has written a letter to the Government mentioning a lot of other things. But as far as audit reports are concerned, we are going by the various observations of the Audit reports. We have asked SAI to reply each audit observation. If these is any infirmity, irregularity, or delinguent behaviour by the officers, I assure the House that adequate action will be taken against them.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Sir, the SAI has been created with an ambitious or desire of the Government to produce more confident athletes in the country. Unfortunately, Sir, today the situtation is bad, but I do not want to go into details. The main disease is that it is under the control of the bureaucrats and dumping force of the Army personnel, and sports personnel have become second-class citizens there. I know this personally, and it is very unfortunate. So, a thorough change in the whole system is required. I give an example. In Kerala, recently they made a transfer of more 650 coaches up and down.

In one district in Kerala, there is a basketball coaching centre. They posted a swimming coach to a basketball centre. That means, they never apply their mind. Their new Director is abroad. He has gone abroad three-four times. Anyhow, let him go abroad and enjoy. I don't mind. But, the point is that they never apply their mind in transfers; simply, bureaucratic transfers are made. So, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether he will look into the whole system and put somebody who can have the spirit of sports to lead this great institution.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Sir, I accept the fact that working of SAI needs to be improved substantially and we are looking at how to strengthen SAI since it is a premier sports institution of the country set up in 1982. It has to be brought to its original glory. We are looking at as to what can be done to strengthen it. Sir, as regrads the question of transfer of coaches, it is a fact that my predecessor, the then Minister, did order

that people, who have been posted at one centre for many-many years, more than 10 years, should be transferred and this transfer was done. But, I am now looking at the entire logic of the transfers. There are many complaints received from hon. Members. All the complaints will be looked at and I assure the hon. Member that there would be a uniform logic followed in the SAI.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, as Mr. Vayalar Ravi, I can also talk with some authority as the President of Tamil Nadu Badminton Association as to what is going on. It is most distressing and disappointing to note that SAI is subject to 20 big frauds and subject to various financial and accounting irregularities as per the statement given by the hon. Minister. It is most distressing that in spite of that fact that the statutory auditor has brought to their notice that there are 20 big frauds, they have not reacted. On the other hand, they coolly waited and they want to be silent spectators to see whether the report has come. In between, I think something has happened. They have written a letter mentioning a fraud, but on the other hand, report did not speak of as to what exactly has happened. That is number one.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Only number one.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, this is second part of my question. Sir, to cite a standing example, a coach in Tamil Nadu from Sports Authority of India, went all over to make collections without rendering any account and swindled all those things. In spite of the fact this has been brought to their notice, they are still silent instead of taking any action. I want to know the reaction of hon. Minister.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Sir, as has been brought out in the reply, the Audit Reports for the three years, which I mentioned, do not mention any fraud. But, a letter, which was written by the audit firm to the Government later, has mentioned 20 big frauds. I want to make the distinction very clear. We are looking at the observations and I admit that there were lot of financial irregularities and infirmities, but preliminary investigation has shown that there is no major fraud as has been pointed out.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: It is the biggest fraud.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: No, we are looking at it. As I said, there are financial irregularities; we admit that. We have taken action to correct

them, for example, various centres did not adopt the same accounting system. Some followed cash basis; some followed accrual basis. We are making the system uniform. We are taking action to do it and I admit that there are serious problems with SAI. We want to strengthen it.

प्रो॰ राम देव भंडारी: सभापति जी, SAI में सब कुछ ठीक-ठीक नहीं चल रहा है, यह तो निश्चित है ब्यूरोक्रेट्स के हाथ में सब कुछ है। महोदय, समाचार-पत्रों में लगातार SAI सेंटर्स के खिलाफ अनियमितता, पक्षपात, भ्रष्टाचार के समाचार आते रहते हैं। इधर मैंने समाचार पत्रों में पढ़ा कि बिहार में मुजफ्फरपुर सेंटर पर गोली चली है। मार-पीट हुई है, गोली चली है। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: आज?

प्रो॰ राम देव भंडारी: सर, आज नहीं, कुछ दिन पहले पटना सेंटर के बारे में भी लगातार भ्रष्टाचार और अनियमितता के समाचार आ रहे हैं। मैंने डी॰जी॰ को एक पत्र लिखा, जांच कराने के लिए, और कहा कि आप स्वयं जांच कीजिए। उन्होंने स्वयं जांच नहीं की, एक रिजनल डायरेक्टर से जांच कराई और जवाब भी रिजनल डायरेक्टर से भिजवाया। यह हश्र होता है हमारे पत्रों का उन्होंने जांच भी बिल्कूल सतही तौर पर व काम-चलाऊ की। मैंने पुन: पत्र लिखा है। जो भ्रष्टाचार के समाचार हैं, इनके बारे में मैं जानना चाहता हूं। एक अफसर पटना में बरसों से जमा हुआ है।

श्री सभापति: नाम बता दीजिए इनको, सहूलियत होगी काम करते समय।

प्रो॰ राम देव भंडारी: यहां मंत्रालय में उसका कोई भाग्य-विधाता बैठा हुआ है, जो उसके खिलाफ कार्रवाई नहीं होने देता है। मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूं कि पटना सेंटर के बारे में, मुजफ्फरपुर सेंटर के बारे में समाचार-पत्रों में जो खबरें छपी हैं, क्या आप उनकी जांच कराएंगे, क्या आप कार्रवाई करेंगे? धन्यवाद।

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Sir, the point raised by the hon. Member is precisely the point that some coaches had been staying at one centre for very long time and in a meeting of the State Ministers of Sports and Youth Affairs held on 16th February, the State Governments complained that there was a duality of control of SAI coaches and that is why a mass transfer was resorted to. I will look into it.

About the letter written by the hon. Member to the DG, SAI, I will definitely investigate whether appropriate action has been taken or not.

प्रो॰ राम देव भंडारी: महोदय, मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि एम॰पी॰ के पत्रों का सम्मान होना चाहिए।

श्री सभापति: आप बैठ जाइए, बैठ जाइए। आप एक कॉपी मेरे पास भेज दीजिएगा।

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Sir, I assure the hon. Member that I will look into it personally.

SHRI LALIT SURI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Auditors in their report have very clearly said that there had been financial irregularities and the accounts had not been kept properly. Sir, this is a very serious matter and the result is that a proper investigation has still not been conducted. Sir, this is also being done in other sports. For example, six Olympains, namely, Pargat Singh, Ashok Kumar, M.K. Kaushik, Col. Balbir Singh, Tarsen Singh and Dr. Gurdeep Singh have written a letter to the hon. Prime Minister that there have been irregularities and corruption in the Hockey Federation. I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to what action is being taken on that.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Sir, as I said, we have noted all the financial irregularities, infirmities in the accounts and lack of transparency, and, we have taken decision to completely overhaul it. We have initiated some of the actions. Sir, I may mention that the then Minister of Sports had taken a meeting of the Finance Committee of SAI and had decided to take some actions that are going on.

One of the main things that we are going to do is that all the accounts maintained by all the centres are going to be based on uniform mercantile system. We are going to reconcile the security deposit earnest money, a point raised by the Auditors. Also, the Trust has been formed as per the Income Tax Rules for GPF and Pension funds. All the infirmities indicated by the Auditors are being taken care of, including the delay in getting income tax exemption certificate. That also is being addressed. I assure the Member that we will look into the entire financial architecture with the help of an expert financial consultant to overhaul the entire financial architecture of SAI.

SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS: Hon. Chairman, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. I am utilising this the opportunity when our hon. Prime Minister is also here. Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that we are going to organize the Commonwealth Games. Several Members raised points with regard to what is happening in SAI and they want half-an-hour discussion on it also. My point is: Is it correct that when

the coaches themselves organised in an association, the bureaucratic authorities those who are ruling over these sports personalities and coaches; immediately took vindictive attitude and transferred more than 700 coaches; and, Mr. Chairman, Sir, they were transferred to places where there is no training. There is no purpose of sending coaches there. So, it is clear that it is vindictive attitude of the bureaucratic authorities those who are sitting there. Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether he is ready to give some assurance in this regard. Please stop the transfers and inquire into the entire matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is enough. Please take your seat.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Sir, this is basically a question about the financial accounting of the SAI. If the hon. Member wants a special discussion on transfer policy, we can have that. But, as I have said, the transfers were done at the behest of the State Ministers and then the Minister ordered that people who have been entrenched in their position and not doing their work, they could be shuffled. But I am having a second look at the entire policy to satisfy myself. Sir, the transfers were not done out of any vindictive action, but were based to improve the standards of sports in our country.

Installation of STD/ISD/PCO booths

*65. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of STD/ISD/PCOs running in the various districts of Uttar Pradesh at present, district-wise;

(b) the number of such booths proposed to be set up in the State during the current year, district-wise;

(c) the details of amount spent, so far on the installation of booths in the State; and

(d) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.